wic program manual WIC 320-30

SECTION: FOOD DELIVERY SYSTEM

SUBJECT: Overview

ITEM: *Food Prescriptions*

Policy	Local agency staff shall prescribe and distribute food packages to program participants in accordance with each participant's category, preferences and nutrition needs.
Basis for policy	Federal: 7 CFR 246.10 State: Chapter 6, Article 1-6, Title 22, CCR
Scope of policy	The Integrated Statewide Information System (ISIS) is an automated information system that generates food prescriptions specific to each participant category. To meet the needs of the participant, WIC local agency staff shall solicit input from the participant to select the most appropriate food prescription from those allowed for the participant's category. Local agency staff may not deny the participant all or part of the food prescription without the participant's verbal consent.
Food prescription	A food prescription consists of one or more food items. Many prescriptions have one or two food items that allow for substitutions, depending upon the participant's preference (i.e. beans or peanut butter). Although ISIS automatically defaults to specific food items in a "standard" food prescription, a staff member has the option to make food substitutions at the participant's request or to select another food package available for that participant category. A Competent Professional Authority (CPA)/WIC Nutrition Assistant (WNA) may also tailor food packages, omitting food instruments for items that the participant does not want.
Category/ status change and food prescription issuance	When a participant's category/status changes, ISIS will automatically change the food prescription to the "standard" food package that is appropriate for the participant's new category. However, participants' prescription records within a family are not linked, so when a postpartum woman stops breastfeeding, her food prescription changes to the default for non-breastfeeding women; however, her infant's food prescription is not automatically changed in ISIS.

Reference materials on food packages

The following reference materials on food packages are available in:

- WPM Section 320-40, Food Package Tailoring,
- WPM Section 390-10, Distribution of Formula for Medical Conditions,
- ISIS Job Aid – Basic Food Packages,
- ISIS Local Administration Manual - #26 – Food Prescriptions-Exceptions,
- The food packages available for a participant as well as the contents of the package are available in ISIS using the F2-View package option from the prescription screens,
- The food instrument portion of the ISIS Training Manual,
- "Shopping Guide" California WIC Authorized Foods – pictures of authorized foods, and
- "WIC Authorized Food List" (can and cannot buy).